
Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh

The Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) provides information and assistance to the approximately 1,000,000 North Carolina residents—363,000 of whom are 65 years of age or older—who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. The division has seven statewide regional offices that provide a broad range of services for people of all ages who have hearing loss, their families, communities, and the professionals who serve them. These services include, but are not limited to, advocacy, information and referral, counseling, access to and education about technology, Telecommunications Equipment Distribution (TED) that includes hearing aids, telephones, and alerting devices, an Emergency Awareness Program with weather radio distribution, Telecommunication Relay Service, CapTel, and community education and outreach.

Division of Social Services

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The Division of Social Services, working with county departments of social services (DSSs), strives to ensure that every family and individual has sufficient economic resources to obtain the basic necessities of life. Consistent with this objective, the division administers two programs vital to the economic security of seniors with low incomes.

Food Stamp Program. This federal entitlement program provides a monthly allotment of Food Stamp benefits, issued by Electronic Benefit Transfer cards to eligible individuals and households. Many counties are conducting outreach activities to reach unserved older adults in the community. A six-year demonstration project targeting senior Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients age 65 or older was implemented in August 2005, the Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). It features a

one-page application mailed to individuals who may be eligible. Benefits are based on the household's shelter expenses, and cases are certified for three years. There are currently over 19,500 seniors benefiting from SNAP.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program. LIEAP provides a one-time cash payment to help eligible families pay their heating bills. This payment is mailed in February of each year.